

McGilvra Neighborhood Greenway
12/18/13 Community Meeting Summary
December 20, 2013

On December 18, 2013, SDOT staff met with residents of 37th Avenue E to discuss possible elements of a neighborhood greenway along 37th Avenue E and E Garfield Street between E Madison Street. The meeting built on a July 27, 2012 neighborhood brainstorming session. Below is a summary of comments.

Comments

Issue: Speeding and congestion

- 37th Avenue E is used as a short-cut at all hours of the day
- The congestion that occurs during drop-off and pick-up at the school and with soccer games creates driver confusion. As a result, people are inattentive to what is going on around them and speed once away from it
- People use Woodrow Pl E to avoid congestion and speed
- Streets are narrow and when cars pass each other going opposite directions drivers move into the sidewalk or onto Broadmoor property to avoid slowing down
- Concerned about shifting traffic to another nearby residential street

Possible solutions proposed by neighbors:

- Speed humps along the two streets to keep cars driving close to 20 mph would be good
 - Concern about motorists avoiding speed humps by driving around them on grass or sidewalk
 - There is a fire hydrant and opposing bollard at 1426 37th Ave E which would prevent the people from doing this. The hydrant is located 300' from E Madison Street.
 - A second speed hump would be ideal between the through-path and the Broadmoor service gate at the property line between 1508-1510 37th Ave E. This is 300' from E Garfield St. The pair could effectively traffic calm the street to 20 mph
- Don't remove the bumps caused by tree roots on E Garfield Street between 38th Avenue E and E Madison Street—they act as traffic calming
- Would converting 37th Avenue E to a one-way be possible? At minimum talk to McGilvra Elementary about encouraging parents to use same circulation patterns when dropping students off. In one way and out the other
- To visually constrain the road's perceived width, paint a white parking stripe 7' out from east sidewalk along entire length of 37th Ave E from E Madison St to E Garfield St. Then leave a 10' travel lane and paint an advisory bicycle lane strip along the west side of 37th Ave E. This would leave a single marked bi-directional lane
- Maintain two-way traffic on 37th Ave E
- Maintain on-street parking on 37th Ave E

- Maintain rustic nature of the street. Because the street doesn't have curbs and gutters, it feels less like a street, and this was perceived as a good thing
- Install severe speed bumps in the alley north of Woodrow Pl E, which technically terminates at E Galer Street to help reduce speeding and make it less attractive to cut-through traffic

Issue: Safer places to walk and bike

- The congestion that occurs during drop-off and pick-up at the school and with soccer games creates driver confusion. As a result, people are inattentive to what is going on around them and speed once away from it

Possible solution proposed by neighbors:

- Consider adding a sidewalk on the west side of 37th Avenue E. If it connected to E Madison Street and the school, there would be no need for students walking or biking to cross streets (residents on 37th Ave E do not approve of this solution)
- Concern that adding a sidewalk on the east side would create too much cement, especially without a planting strip and prefer the country lane feel with the green grass they have today
- Prefer to widen the existing sidewalk on the east side of the street, maintain on-street parking and narrow the street to allow more space for pedestrians and calm traffic
- Look at the Broadmoor mountable curb as an example of what could be done with the existing sidewalk

Issue: Drainage

- Water moves off the golf course, north down 37th Avenue E and collects at the corner of 37th Avenue E and E Garfield. It carries silt and is problematic for the property located there

Possible solution proposed by neighbors:

- Ask Seattle Public Utilities if they would be interested in helping construct two bio-swales, one at 1450 37th Ave E where there is an existing underutilized storm drain and one at the corner with Garfield which is the location of the other underutilized storm drain. The pair of bio-swales could channel the runoff into the existing storm drains and create silt catchment basins at two points
- Added benefit of bio-swales is preventing on-street parking close to where people cross the street at 37th and Garfield
- A bio-swale at 1450 37th Ave E could serve to visually address the long block problem that influences speeding behavior today

Issue: On-street parking in restricted zones

- Drivers ignore the 'no-parking within 30 feet' regulation near the crosswalks and stop signs at 38th Avenue E
- Parents and staff ignore the 'no parking between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays' along the north side of E Garfield Street between 37th Avenue E and 38th Avenue E

Opportunity

- Find physically enforceable ways to keep people from parking in areas that create blind zones and in the crosswalk

Issue: Crossing at 37th Avenue E and E Garfield Street

- High number of pedestrians and people biking crossing at blind curve at 37th Avenue E and E Garfield to access McGilvra Elementary

Possible solution proposed by neighbors:

- Stop signs and painted crosswalk to help slow motorists and make them aware of non-motorized travel
- Curb bulbs or bio-swale to narrow crossing and calm traffic

Issue: Uncontrolled intersection at E Garfield Street and 39th Avenue E

- Uncontrolled intersection at E Garfield Street and 39th Avenue E sees some high speed collisions between cars crossing at the same time. While there have not been reports of pedestrians or people on bikes being hit, something should be done

Opportunity

- Research what treatments are used at neighborhood greenway intersections in other cities where both streets are residential streets and share with residents

Issue: Parking on sidewalk

- 37th Avenue E residents and visitors parking cars on sidewalks to protect them from being hit by passing cars. Parking on the already narrow sidewalk makes the sidewalk usable by pedestrians.

Possible solution proposed by neighbors:

- Paint white parking strip 7' out from east sidewalk along entire length of 37th Ave E from E Madison Street to E Garfield Street to help guide motorists parking
- Paired with an advisory bike lane on the west side of the street, the visual perception of street width would be reduced